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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 63

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 5, 1951

NOV 14 1951
U.S. [illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Canada's specific duty of 1 cent a pound on prunes shall not apply on imports into the Province of Quebec, nor Ontario east of Port Arthur, effective on and after October 24, 1951. Announcement to this effect was included in appraisers' bulletin, Fruits and Vegetables No. 15 (1951).

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The most recent unofficial estimate of the 1951-52 cotton production in Mexico places the crop at almost 1,250,000 bales (500 pounds gross), or 75,000 bales lower than the last estimate published by this Office. The revised estimate, however, is still more than 10 percent above 1950-51 production of 1,120,000 bales. Increased production this year is attributable almost entirely to the additional acreage planted, since the shortage of rainfall and water for irrigation have caused a marked decline in several important districts.

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The Egyptian Parliament has approved (effective about October 20) additional taxes on cotton totaling 3 piasters per kantar, equivalent to about 41 cents a bale of 500 pounds gross. This total is divided into 3 equal parts to be applied against ginnings, pressings, and exports (in addition to existing export taxes totaling 2.95 cents a pound). The new taxes are intended to raise £240,000 ($688,500) per year to be used to promote export sales of Egyptian cotton.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD POTATO PRODUCTION BELOW PREWAR

World potato production in the 1951-52 season is estimated at 7.8 billion bushels, 10 percent less than the 8.7 billion bushels produced in 1950-51 and 6 percent lower than the average production in the prewar period 1935-39.

This first estimate of the 1951-52 production is preliminary, as it is based on reports of several weeks past when crops were not fully matured in many areas of the Northern Hemisphere and on forecasts of production only recently planted or to be planted in the Southern Hemisphere. A revised estimate will be available in April 1952.

The decline of production is a reflection of fewer acres planted last spring in some areas occasioned by relatively low prices received for the bumper production of 1950-51, and less favorable weather in some countries.

There was a decrease in acreage in the highest yielding areas, such as the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany and Denmark. Over the world as a whole, however, acreage increased slightly above the area planted last year. North American acreage dropped 18 percent from last year and European acreage less than 2 percent.

The weather this year on the whole was favorable for potato production except for small areas reported here and there and for a large area involving Poland, Czechoslovakia, southern Finland and probably bordering areas. Reports of this drought have only recently become available and the full extent of damage to potato production is yet unknown. A report from Poland states that the drought is the worst in 170 years with no rain since August 18. In Czechoslovakia potato rationing has been reinstated for the first time since the 1947-48 season and the ration is reportedly lower than for most of the time during and after the war. From Eastern Germany come reports of supply difficulties--consumers standing in line. There were also reports of early summer drought and slow harvest in some potato-producing regions of the Soviet Union. Finland reports droughty conditions in the southern portions severe enough to reduce the 1951 potato production to 83 percent of the 1948-50 average. The crop is very good in northern Finland. Thus the drought seems to involve one of the most concentrated potato-producing areas in the world. It affects some of the world's largest potato producing countries. The Soviet Union, Poland, Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia together produced 55 percent of the world's total estimated production in 1950.

Last year the drought occurred further south, in Yugoslavia and other countries near by. This year the weather there was much more favorable. Italy had abundant rainfall in both spring and summer and reports a potato crop, (preliminary estimate), 37 percent above last year. This production was on a acreage comparable to that of last year. Spain reports excellent growing conditions for potatoes and increased production.

POTATOES: Acreage, yield and production in specified countries, averages 1935-39 and 1940-44, annual 1950-51

Continent and country	Acreage				Yield per acre				Production			
	Average		1950	1951 1/	Average		1950	1951 1/	Average		1950	1951 1/
	1935-39	1940-44			1935-39	1940-44			1935-39	1940-44		
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA												
Canada	539	547	517	410	124	136	191	177	66,571	74,495	98,895	72,430
El Salvador	1	1	2	2	22	33	50	50	22	32	100	100
Guatemala	9	10	10	10	41	46	47	47	383	463	470	470
Honduras	3	3	4	4	18	18	38	38	60	50	150	150
Mexico	37	60	82	82	69	65	60	60	2,547	3,892	4,960	4,900
Panama, Republic of	1	1	1	1	40	50	50	50	30	30	70	70
United States	3,033	2,844	1,847	1,509	117	137	238	223	355,504	388,765	439,500	337,122
Bermuda	2	2	1	1	40	45	45	45	79	90	40	40
Cuba	20	14	25	25	95	128	132	120	1,894	1,792	3,300	3,000
Dominican Republic	2	3	3	3	48	36	45	45	96	89	72	70
Jamaica	2	2	3	3	30	39	27	27	60	77	80	80
Total	3,649	3,487	2,495	2,050	117	135	219	204	427,246	469,775	547,637	418,432
EUROPE												
Albania	1	2	3	3	55	50	50	50	82	100	150	150
Austria	507	443	454	469	206	210	206	217	104,632	80,707	95,533	101,816
Belgium 2/	383	258	242	242 2/	305	291	351	311	2/116,872	75,030	84,825	75,337
Bulgaria	46	78	45	45	90	86	67	84	4,145	6,693	3,000	3,800
Czechoslovakia	1,873	1,761	1,500	1,500	198	146	183	160	371,415	257,865	275,000	240,000
Denmark	188	219	259	247	254	258	262	259	47,668	56,480	67,938	64,000
Finland	213	164	210	215	228	209	212	222	48,624	34,326	44,459	47,766
France	3,786	3,014	2,767	2,704	167	137	192	190	631,052	413,375	530,230	514,407
Western Germany	2,871	2,627	2,800	2,760	250	252	367	333	718,100	662,600	1,027,000	918,600
Eastern Germany	2,000	1,900	2,000	2,000	250	266	240	200	501,000	505,000	480,000	400,000
Greece	53	54	85	98	100	60	150	148	5,308	3,218	12,768	14,466
Hungary	729	896	680	680	109	109	66	88	79,637	97,657	45,000	60,000
Iceland	2	2	2	2	142	150	184	180	284	435	367	360
Ireland	328	408	337	318	300	293	318	317	98,286	119,713	107,300	100,800
Italy	993	1,046	939	944	97	93	93	127	96,433	97,283	87,467	119,967
Luxembourg	42	27	20	20	189	205	276	250	7,929	5,522	5,529	5,000
Malta	9	6	7	7	118	85	70	60	1,104	508	480	450
Netherlands	320	448	409	380	315	308	364	316	100,744	137,987	148,808	120,000
Norway	127	175	146	146	259	247	281	306	32,830	43,158	41,006	44,680
Poland	6,800	6,500	6,400	6,400	205	181	178	152	1,397,000	1,176,000	1,140,000	975,000
Portugal	77	114	233	230	270	248	153	152	20,755	28,325	35,682	35,000
Rumania	381	493	450	450	126	112	67	89	48,073	55,355	30,000	40,000
Spain	1,125	1,090	890	902	152	127	124	134	170,977	138,676	110,230	121,253
Sweden	326	346	322	323	204	208	198	202	66,631	72,100	63,713	65,315
Switzerland	118	172	137	140	221	289	303	276	26,126	49,750	41,527	38,580
United Kingdom	720	1,213	1,235	1,056	254	263	287	266	182,859	318,976	354,928	281,120
Yugoslavia	699	727	770	770	89	105	65	97	62,026	76,042	50,000	75,000
Total	24,717	24,183	23,342	23,051	200	187	209	194	4,940,592	4,512,881	4,882,940	4,462,867
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	20,203	21,000	23,400	23,400	134	133	124	111	2,713,054	2,800,000	2,900,000	2,600,000

ASIA												
Cyprus	6	7	11	12	148	114	148	142	958	843	1,626	1,700
Israel 3/	1	4	4	4	84	234	225	215	84	938	900	950
Lebanon	4/	4/	11	12	4/	4/	107	100	4/	4/	1,176	1,200
Syria	5/ 17	5/ 13	9	10	5/ 89	5/ 100	102	95	5/ 1,531	5/ 1,311	919	950
Turkey	135	176	186	212	49	62	120	108	6,645	10,946	22,238	22,898
Indonesia	27	14	18	18	72	73	56	56	1,941	1,025	1,000	1,000
Japan	388	468	465	479	165	151	191	195	64,103	70,876	88,772	93,291
North Korea	221	261	260	260	77	69	62	62	17,097	17,937	16,000	16,000
South Korea	47	82	120	120	95	70	58	58	4,447	5,763	7,000	7,000
Philippine Islands	1	1	1	1	70	70	70	70	9	8	8	8
Total	843	1,026	1,085	1,128	115	107	129	129	96,815	109,647	139,639	144,997
SOUTH AMERICA												
Argentina	311	472	514	510	85	93	107	98	26,523	43,741	55,115	50,000
Brazil	168	219	370	370	94	82	74	73	15,775	17,973	27,500	27,000
Chile	121	132	131	130	129	129	113	123	15,622	17,047	14,850	16,000
Colombia	167	221	250	250	81	67	58	58	13,467	14,786	16,000	16,000
Ecuador	62	62	60	60	78	66	18	50	4,827	4,092	1,082	3,000
Peru	400	347	482	480	75	69	95	94	30,157	24,045	45,929	45,000
Uruguay	18	25	29	29	63	54	60	55	1,135	1,345	1,727	1,600
Venezuela	15	15	12	12	24	37	54	50	367	551	650	600
Total	1,262	1,493	1,848	1,841	85	83	88	86	107,873	123,580	162,853	159,200
AFRICA												
Algeria	44	37	50	50	105	93	161	150	4,627	3,453	8,063	7,500
Belgian Congo	3	6	7	7	110	51	71	71	288	313	500	500
Egypt	10	20	26	26	181	150	288	231	1,313	3,010	7,500	6,000
Eritrea	1	2	2	2	36	30	38	38	6	59	75	75
Madagascar	31	29	50	50	52	61	64	66	1,615	1,764	3,210	3,300
Mauritius	1	1	1	1	131	75	130	130	31	24	130	130
Mozambique	2	2	1	1	78	86	120	120	78	91	120	120
Nigeria and Cameroons	2	2	1	1	30	37	40	40	21	54	40	40
Southern Rhodesia	3	4	4	4	81	101	100	100	254	376	400	400
Tunisia	6	4	5	5	65	119	140	140	393	451	700	700
Union of South Africa	89	90	170	170	88	76	63	62	7,844	6,822	10,645	10,500
Total	192	197	317	317	88	83	99	92	16,970	16,417	31,383	29,265
OCEANIA												
Australia	114	159	124	125	113	129	111	112	12,900	20,531	13,709	14,000
New Zealand	21	23	18	18	221	198	233	233	4,651	4,554	4,200	4,200
Total	135	182	142	143	130	138	126	127	17,551	25,135	17,909	18,200
World total	51,001	51,568	52,629	51,930	163	156	165	151	8,320,101	8,057,435	8,682,361	7,832,961

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Not comparable with later years as prewar years apparently include small farms and gardens. 3/ Jewish farming only. 4/ Included with Syria. 5/ Includes Lebanon.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Years shown refer to year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and includes the harvest immediately following in the Southern Hemisphere. Averages are for years stated or for the nearest comparable period. The yields per acre for countries having a small production were calculated on the basis of unrounded estimates of acreage.

In other areas including France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom heavy rains also produced relatively high yields in most areas though less than last year. The rains were heavy about harvest time with warm weather which caused outbreaks of potato blight and damaged the keeping quality of potatoes. It has been reported that prevalence of the blight will likely contribute to storage losses and possibly to shortages of supplies in some of these areas before the next crop becomes available.

In the United States and Canada the potato acreage is 19 percent below 1950 and production 24 percent below. Lower production in Canada should tend to reduce exports to the United States from the levels of recent years when Canada had large surpluses. However, there are factors in the United States more encouraging to potato imports from Canada than last year. These are higher prices in the United States and an increased United States quota for table potatoes to be entered at the lower duties. Because of the short crop in central and western Canada, United States exports to Canada may also be increased this year. Potato prices in the New York wholesale markets, the latter part of October, were reported at about $3.25 per hundredweight for Long Island Katahdins compared to around $1.50 for the same kind of potatoes at this time last year.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD COTTONSEED PRODUCTION UP SHARPLY

World cottonseed production during 1951-52 is forecast tentatively by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations at about 16.4 million short tons, based on preliminary estimates of lint production. This is 3.2 million tons or 24 percent more than last year's estimate, currently revised to 13.2 million tons, but 9 percent less than the 18 million-ton record estimated for 1937-38.

The United States accounts for 2.8 million tons of the 3.2 million-ton increase, leaving a 0.4 million-ton expansion in the remaining cotton-producing countries of the world. Production in the United States, which normally represents from 35 to 45 percent of the world output, currently is estimated at 6.8 million tons or 68 percent larger than last year's small outturn of 4.1 million. This year's cotton acreage was up from 1950 by 60 percent and the yield per acre of lint improved somewhat.

On June 1, 1951, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that price support loans on the 1951 crop cottonseed would be available at $65.50 per ton for basis grade (100) and that in areas where a purchase program may be necessary purchases would be made at $61.50 per ton basis grade.

COTTONSEED: Production in specified countries and the world, average 1935-39 and 1940-44, annual 1947-51

Continent and country	Year beginning August 1 1/						
	Average		1947	1948	1949	1950 2/	1951 2/
	1935-39	1940-44					
	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
NORTH AMERICA							
El Salvador	2	6	11	11	14	13	19
Mexico	160	203	232	274	450	538	636
United States	5,554	4,926	4,682	5,945	6,559	4,078	6,845
Haiti	12	7	6	7	4	2	-
Total 3/	5,735	5,150	4,940	6,245	7,045	4,650	7,535
EUROPE							
Bulgaria 4/	19	9	15	-	-	-	-
Greece	39	14	27	28	37	60	64
Italy	11	14	8	5	5	7	7
Rumania 4/	1	7	10	-	-	-	-
Spain	5	8	6	15	7	7	-
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 3/	75	55	70	80	80	100	120
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	1,640	995	1,150	1,250	1,295	-	-
ASIA							
Iran	91	56	43	49	51	69	66
Syria	15	8	13	15	33	75	160
Turkey	126	122	111	157	227	287	332
Afghanistan	27	13	6	11	11	19	-
Burma	54	45	20	20	20	20	22
China (incl. Manchuria)	1,593	1,123	1,196	1,184	952	1,305	-
India 5/	2,984	2,708	1,406	1,098	1,316	1,484	1,568
Pakistan 5/	-	-	472	424	510	631	656
Japan	1	1	3	1	2	-	-
Korea 6/	101	100	33	37	66	46	-
Indonesia	5	5	1	3	3	-	-
Thailand	4	15	14	14	11	12	-
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 3/	5,015	4,210	3,325	3,020	3,210	3,980	4,320
SOUTH AMERICA							
Argentina	147	202	216	230	328	235	255
Brazil	935	1,037	605	720	624	720	648
Colombia	12	12	13	15	20	18	-
Paraguay	20	21	17	23	31	25	-
Peru	202	166	148	142	198	199	198
Venezuela	6	8	5	7	3	3	-
Total 3/	1,330	1,450	1,010	1,145	1,215	1,210	1,170
AFRICA AND OCEANIA							
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	132	135	115	152	163	233	-
Belgian Congo	87	92	94	112	112	100	-
Tanganyika	25	23	21	21	22	21	24
Uganda	143	101	72	167	144	144	140
Egypt	1,007	661	702	980	959	937	906
French Equatorial Africa	22	44	55	55	64	53	-
French West Africa	16	10	7	8	12	14	-
Mozambique	18	47	52	65	44	64	-
Nigeria	19	15	31	31	32	43	43
Angola	7	12	12	10	15	16	16
Total 3/	1,500	1,165	1,175	1,615	1,585	1,650	1,605
World total	15,295	13,025	11,670	13,355	14,430	13,175	16,380

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries. 4/ Figures for 1941 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. 5/ Prior to 1947 figures for India include Pakistan. 6/ Figures for 1941 to date are for South Korea only.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. United States figures were compiled from official records; figures for other countries were calculated from lint-production estimates.

(100) cottonseed. The supports reflect 90 percent of the January 15, 1951 parity price of $71 a ton for average quality seed.

Mexico's record output, placed at 636,000 tons or 100,000 tons larger than last year, came about mainly as a result of the sharp acreage increase in the State of Sonora and the Mexicali District. Increases also have occurred in Nicaragua and El Salvador--to 20,000 and 19,000 tons, respectively.

European cottonseed production is calculated at 120,000 tons. Over half of this total--64,000 tons--represents output in Greece where cottonseed is the most important item of oilseed production with the exception of olives.

Production records of 332,000 and 160,000 tons are estimated for Turkey and Syria, respectively. Acreage expansion--at the expense of acreage to other oilseed crops in cotton-growing areas of both countries--accounts for the large seed outturn.

India's cottonseed production is expected to approach 1.6 million tons, larger than last year by 84,000 tons but 1.4 million tons less than the 1935-44 average. Acreage increased markedly but unfavorable weather reduced the cotton crop below expectations. Pakistan's outturn is expected to increase from 631,000 tons in 1950-51 to 656,000 this year.

In China cottonseed output may be somewhat larger than the 1.3 million tons estimated for 1950-51. Reliable information, however, is lacking.

Brazil's production is now calculated at 648,000 tons or 10 percent less than last year. Output in South Brazil, the bulk of which is produced in the State of Sao Paulo, was slightly higher than last season though insect infestation and late seasonal rains caused considerable deterioration in the cotton crop. Seed output from the cotton crop in North Brazil is expected to be down sharply, as a result of drought and insect damage.

Argentina may produce around 250,000 tons of seed or some 20,000 tons more than in 1950-51. Cotton growers evidently desire to increase plantings considerably as a result of the highly profitable prices paid in the domestic market. However, observers believe that shortages of labor and machinery will limit the area planted to cotton to 1.3 million acres, which is about 150,000 acres or 14 percent larger than a year ago.

Seed production in Peru appears to have maintained a level of about 200,000 tons the past 3 years. Cottonseed is the only source of vegetable oil production of commercial significance in Peru.

African cottonseed output may be some 50,000 tons short of the 1950-51 crop. From official estimates of cotton output, seed production in Egypt is calculated at 900,000 tons or a decrease of 30,000 tons from last year. Outturn in Anglo-Egyptian Sudan may be smaller than the 230,000 tons estimated for 1950-51. No significant changes from last year are evident in other cotton-producing countries of Africa.

WORLD 1951 DRIED FIG PACK AGAIN BELOW AVERAGE [1]

The 1951 preliminary estimate of the dried fig pack in the leading commercial producing countries is 171,500 short tons compared with 182,200 tons (revised) in 1950 and 196,700 tons in 1949. The present estimate is 14 percent below the 10-year (1940-49) average of 198,600 tons and 15 percent below the 5-year (1945-49) average of 201,700 tons.

A larger pack than a year ago is reported for Algeria, Greece and Turkey, the principal exporting countries. Italy, the largest producer of dried figs, reports a pack considerably below that of last year. All other countries report a pack slightly below the previous year. The official United States production estimate is not yet available; however, on the basis of trade estimates it is expected to be slightly less than a year ago.

The growing conditions in the Mediterranean Basin this season varied considerably by areas. In Algeria the weather was very good up to harvest time but about three-fourths of the crop was dried when heavy rains caused considerable loss. Growing conditions were satisfactory in Greece but considerable fungi damage developed late in the season. Italy experienced heavy rains at harvest which greatly reduced the pack. In Spain some areas had excellent growing conditions but Granada province lost almost its entire crop by heavy rains. In Turkey and Syria growing conditions were good until near the end of the season when hot, dry winds caused some damage.

The 1950-51 season ended with no carry-over of exportable quality remaining in the foreign countries. Exports during the season based in part on official export statistics and trade estimates for the balance of the season indicate about 55,000 short tons of figs moved into international trade from the foreign countries. This represents about 35 percent of the total pack in the countries shown in the accompanying production table. Turkey was the principal exporting country with 17,800 tons, followed by Algeria with 11,356 tons and Greece with 11,000 tons. The Turkish exports represented 32 percent of the total moved into international trade. The principal destinations were Germany, the United Kingdom, France and other western European countries.

The 1951-52 marketing year started off rather slowly and not entirely satisfactory in most countries. The quality of the Greek figs is much below the previous season and in fact has about put an end to this season's exports. In Italy the pack of exportable figs is small and foreign demand to date has been disappointing. The exporters in Algeria hope to sell the bulk of their pack in France and to make some sales in Western Germany and the United Kingdom. The Trade in Spain hopes to sell a sizeable portion of the pack in the Scandinavian countries although little tonnage has actually moved so far.

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[1] A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular obtainable from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

FIGS, DRIED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries 1951 with comparisons.

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Algeria	Argentina	Greece	Italy	Portugal 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:					
1940-49	21,900	800	22,800	73,400	9,500
1945-49	27,500	900	24,500	65,000	9,300
Annual:					
1945	10,400	300	19,800	59,200	5,500
1946	22,700	1,300	21,400	60,500	12,100
1947	48,600	1,000	27,800	66,000	11,400
1948	21,600	1,100	26,700	67,500	8,500
1949	34,200	600	26,600	71,800	8,900
1950 3/	2/ 22,700	600	2/ 24,700	64,400	2/ 16,800
1951 3/	33,000	500	27,500	42,900	12,000

Year	Syria-Lebanon	Turkey	Foreign total	United States	World total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:					
1940-49	5,600	31,500	165,500	33,100	198,600
1945-49	9,000	32,300	168,500	33,200	201,700
Annual:					
1945	11,200	28,600	135,000	32,600	167,600
1946	10,900	38,500	167,400	36,600	204,000
1947	9,500	37,400	201,700	38,000	239,700
1948	9,400	35,200	170,000	30,300	200,300
1949	4,200	22,000	168,300	28,400	196,700
1950 3/	2/ 3,300	25,300	2/ 157,800	24,400	2/ 182,200
1951 3/	2,200	30,000	148,100	1/4/23,400	171,500

1/ Merchantable figs only.
2/ Revised.
3/ Preliminary.
4/ Trade estimate only not official

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information.

UNITED STATES: Imports of dried figs

(Crop year, September - August)

Countries	Average 1941/42-1950/51	Average 1946/47 1950/51	Annual 1947-48	Annual 1948-49	Annual 1949-50	Annual 1950-51
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Greece	695	1,387	497	797	1,759	3,310
Italy	79	158	145	216	136	134
Portugal	62	114	0	4	73	491
Turkey	555	749	900	366	501	1,057
Others	2	4	4	1/	1/	8
Total	1,393	2,412	1,546	1,383	2,469	5,000

1/ Less than one-half ton.

Compiled from official sources of the Bureau of the Census.

In Turkey the season has been slow, with the United Kingdom, Belgium, Brazil and Switzerland being the principal buying countries. Germany and Sweden are slow this year due to import license requirements. The United States and Canada have been buying but at a slower rate than a year ago. The Turkish exporters, while not pleased with the slow market, are optimistic that the entire pack will be sold before the season is over.-- By Walter R. Schreiber, based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FATS AND OILS

BURMA'S OILSEED PRODUCTION INCREASES IN 1950-51

Burma's production of oilseeds in 1950-51 is estimated at 224,000 short tons, an increase of more than one-fifth from the 185,000 tons produced during the previous season, reports J.H. Boulware, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rangoon. This output consists of peanuts, sesame, and cottonseed, the 3 principal oilseed crops grown in Burma. Other sources of vegetable oils of some importance in Burma are coconut, rape, mustard and tung. No recent data on acreage and production of these latter crops are available.

Peanuts are the most important source of edible oils in Burma. Production of unshelled nuts in 1950-51 was 162,000 tons, an increase of 23 percent from 1949-50. Area planted to this crop in 1951-52 is estimated at 701,000 acres, a slight increase from last year. Current production data are not yet available.

Two distinct types of sesame are grown in Burma, early and late. Early sesame is sown in May-June and harvested during August-September, while the late type is sown in September-October and harvested during the winter. Total production of sesame during 1950-51 amounted to about 45,000 tons, a 25 percent increase from the previous year. Area planted to both early and late sesame in 1951-52 is now estimated at 1,316,000 acres or slightly more than the previous year.

The production of sesame is considered a risky undertaking by Burmese farmers. Rains and floods frequently damage large areas of the early crop while the late crop often suffers from drought.

Cottonseed is used only to a limited extent as an edible oil in Burma because of the lack of refining facilities. Data on seed production are available only by calculation from the production of ginned cotton. Output of cottonseed in 1950-51 has been placed at 17,000 tons, or about the same as in the 2 previous seasons. Cotton plantings for 1951-52 have been estimated at 216,000 acres.

The latest estimate for rape and mustard seed acreage is for 1947-48 when 3,000 acres were reported under cultivation. Approximately 7,300 acres of coconut trees also were reported for that year. No indications of significant changes for these crops have been noted in recent years.

BURMA: Area planted and production of principal oilseed crops, 1950-51 with comparisons

Crop year	Peanuts (unshelled)		Sesame		Cottonseed	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area 1/	Production 2/
	1,000 acres	1,000 Short tons	1,000 acres	1,000 Short tons	1,000 acres	1,000 Short tons
1936-40 (average)......	808	203	1,396	57	452	45
1948-49................	703	166	1,383	46	3/	17
1949-50................	671	132	1,318	36	220	17
1950-51................	694	162	1,312	45	220	17

1/ Area planted to cotton. 2/ Embassy estimates calculated from production of ginned cotton, assuming seed cotton to be 1/3 lint and 2/3 seed.
3/ Not available.

American Embassy, Rangoon.

Tung nuts are grown to a limited extent in the Shan States. Prior to 1942 several firms had established plantings in the area and about 15,000 acres were in tung trees. Much of this area has been destroyed or abandoned, however, and production of tung nuts in the Shan States was only about 65 tons in 1950-51. Output in 1951-52 is expected to be around 100 tons.

All of the larger and more efficient oil crushing mills in Burma were destroyed or severely damaged during World War II and the subsequent civil disturbance. None has been rehabilitated and as a result all oil extraction is by small power mills or by crude farm devices. Since most of the seed is processed on the farm, inefficient extraction and large oil losses are reported. Production of oils under these conditions can only be approximated. The 1950-51 oil outturn of these 3 crops probably amounted roughly to 50,000 tons. Prospects for improvements in processing facilities appear remote for the near future since private firms are hesitant to expend funds until a greater degree of law and order prevails.

Vegetable oil imports during the 1951 fiscal year (ending September 30, 1951) were 20,406 tons. A breakdown of imports by type of oil is not readily available. However, peanut oil from India and coconut oil from Malaya usually make up the bulk of Burma's vegetable oil imports.

The restriction on peanut oil exports imposed by India in the spring of 1951 (see Foreign Crops and Markets of April 23, 1951) has been of great concern to Burma and was considered by the Burmese as a factor of major importance in the Five-Year Trade Agreement recently negotiated between the 2 countries. Under that Agreement India will permit the export of 8,000 long tons of peanut oil annually to Burma during 1951-55.

Exports of oil and oilseed are comparatively minor items in Burma's foreign trade. Exports of oilcake, a significant export prior to 1940, appear to have increased slightly during the 1951 fiscal year.

Data on the disappearance of vegetable oils in Burma are practically non-existent. Almost all vegetable oils produced or imported are used for food or the manufacture of soap. Since Burma has no refining facilities for oils, peanuts and sesame oils, which can readily be used without refining, are preferred for use as food. Coconut and cottonseed oils are used primarily by the soap industry. On the basis of domestic production (roughly 50,000 short tons) plus imports (20,400 tons), consumption of vegetable oils in Burma during the 1951 fiscal year amounted to some 70,000 tons.

As a result of the restriction on exports by India, vegetable oil prices during the summer of 1951 were at the highest levels since 1947. Since that time import arrivals and consumer resistance have reduced prices somewhat. Wholesale prices of peanut and sesame oils at Rangoon on September 30, 1951, were quoted at 1.50 rupees (31.3 cents) and 1.49 rupees per pound (31.1), respectively.

The outlook for the near future is for a continuing need for imports of vegetable oils in Burma. When conditions of law and order improve, acreage and production of oilseeds are almost certain to increase. Current prospects for oilseed crops in 1951-52 are good.

PERU'S VEGETABLE LARD AND OIL OUTPUT INCREASES

Production of vegetable lard and oil in Peru during 1950-51 is estimated at around 19,800 short tons, compared with 16,500 tons in the previous season, reports Roy O. Westley, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Lima.

Cottonseed is the primary source of vegetable oil in Peru. Although estimates are late for the present year, output of cottonseed is expected to be little more than in 1950 when about 200,000 tons were produced.

Small quantities of sunflower seed and peanuts are crushed for oil in Peru, although production has not reached commercial importance. It is not expected that the acreage of these crops will be increased materially in future years. Plantings of African oil palms are being increased in Peru and the prospect for increased vegetable oil production may be dependent upon the culture of this crop.

There are 24 oil-crushing plants in Peru, and 3 grades of edible oils are produced in addition to vegetable lard.

IRANIAN OILSEED, OIL FORECAST FOR 1951

Total production of all oilseeds in Iran during the 1951 crop year is now forecast at about 105,300 short tons, compared with 115,190 tons in 1950 and 102,510 tons in 1949, reports H. V. Geib, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Tehran.

Of the 1951 production of oilseeds, cottonseed is by far the most important. It accounts for approximately 56 percent of the total, or 59,500 tons (commercial production). Olives and poppy seeds come second, each with 11,000 tons. The remaining tonnage is made up of the following: sesame seed-10,600 tons; castor beans-8,300; flaxseed-2,300; and miscellaneous other oilseeds-2,600 tons.

The cotton crop is somewhat smaller than last year, due to unusually dry weather during the growing season. The acreage of poppy seed grown in 1951 is reported to be considerably less than in 1950, owing to stricter Government control. Total production probably will not be known until January or February 1952. Other oilseed production is expected to run more or less the same as in 1950 with only minor variations.

Preliminary estimates place 1951 production of vegetable oils at around 12,000 tons. This is some 300 tons less than the 1950 production, but is 840 tons more than was produced in 1949.

Cottonseed oil production in 1951 is forecast at about 5,000 tons, or more than 40 percent of total vegetable oil production. Castor oil comes second with 3,200 tons, or about 27 percent of the total. Production of other oils is as follows: sesame-1,210 tons; olive-940; poppy-930; linseed-600; and miscellaneous other vegetable oils-210 tons.

BRAZIL'S CARNAUBA WAX PROSPECTS CONTINUE FAVORABLE

Brazil's carnauba wax output in 1951-52 is estimated at 12,700 short tons, an increase of 600 tons from the first estimate for the season, reports R. A. Godfrey, American Consulate, Fortaleza. Production in 1950-51 and 1949-50 was 12,570 and 12,280 tons, respectively. The yield from the first cuttings has confirmed the earlier prediction that the drought conditions prevailing in Northeast Brazil have favored a higher yield per frond.

ECUADOR'S OILSEED, OIL OUTPUT DECREASES IN 1951

Vegetable oil production in Ecuador in 1951 has been forecast at around 2,600 short tons, a decrease of almost 28 percent from the previous year, reports A. H. Lester, American Consulate General, Guayaquil. The drop in vegetable oil output from last year is the result of the lateness of some oilseed crops and of already established decreases in others.

Planting of castor beans in 1951 was stimulated by high export prices, and an increase of about 50 percent from the 1950 output of 7,100 tons was forecast. With the exception of cottonseed, which is expected to approximate the 1950 output of 7,730 tons, and castor beans, all other oilseed crops are expected to decrease from 25 to 75 percent.

Principal vegetable oils produced in Ecuador and production forecasts for 1951 (1950 output in parenthesis) are as follows: palm-1,350 tons (1,800); cottonseed-560 (790); barbados nut-280 (310); castor-190 (270); peanut-140 (230); coconut-80 (110); kapok-30 (60); and sesame-15 (15).

Imports into the Port of Guayaquil of oils, fats, and waxes and their products, January through May 1951, totaled 995 tons against 2,560 tons during all of 1950. The largest single item of import in 1951 has been crude tallow with 565 tons.

Export of castor beans in the first 5 months of 1951 amounted to 914 tons compared with shipments of 4,600 tons during the previous 12 months. No other exports of oilseeds or oils were reported during this period.

Prices of oilseeds and vegetable oils on local markets have risen sharply and almost without exception as compared with levels of October 1, 1950. This rise has occurred principally since May 1951. Some prices have more than doubled in the past 12 months.

The market for domestically produced oilseeds and vegetable oils in Ecuador continues excellent. Current adverse prospects for oilseed crops suggest a further decrease of the domestic supply. There is a good demand for the principal export item, castor beans, although dollar prices are lower than previously.

Import demand for fats and oils seems to be on the increase for the near future. A further importation of 120,000 pounds of hog lard was authorized on September 4, 1951.

BELGIAN CONGO OIL PALM PRODUCTS EXPORTS AGAIN HIGH

Exports of palm oil, palm kernels, and palm kernel oil from the Belgian Congo in the first 6 months of 1951 remained at the high 1950 levels, reports W. E. Snyder, American Consulate General, Leopoldville.

Palm oil exports during January-June amounted to 68,732 short tons compared with 67,226 tons in the same period of 1950. Shipment of 19,290 tons to the United States continued at the high rate achieved in 1950. However, purchases by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom showed the greatest proportional increases over last year's figures.

Shipment of 20,133 tons to Belgium was down sharply from last year but still represented the largest volume purchased by any one country in the first half of 1951.

A total of 51,844 tons of palm kernels was exported in January-June 1951. There was no substantial change in the marketing pattern, except that Danish purchases were almost double those of 1950. Belgium and Western Germany were the principal buyers.

Exports of palm kernel oil rose sharply during the first 6 months of this year, totaling 10,092 tons against 5,763 in the same months of 1950. Belgium and the Union of South Africa continued to buy the largest quantities--4,992 and 2,095 tons, respectively.

Stimulated by high world prices in 1950, palm oil and palm kernel production attained record levels. Palm oil output amounted to 203,200 short tons, according to recent official statistics. This represents an increase of 22 percent over the 1949 production. Approximately one-third of this output came from plantations operated by Europeans. Palm kernel production of 139,300 was one-fourth again the size of the 1949 crop. Native output of 69,787 tons slightly exceeded European. Total area under cultivation of palm trees was placed at 522,800 acres.

Although detailed information is not available, it is believed that stocks of oil palm products in the Belgian Congo are normal. However, the increasing congestion at the Congo River seaports of Matadi and Boma may result in disruption of normal exports and the accumulation of larger stocks. Facilities for palm oil and palm kernel oil at Matadi, Boma, and Leopoldville are adequate for the storage of approximately 22,000 tons.

Prices of oil palm products, after reaching a peak at the end of February, declined slowly as purchasers' stocks became adequate and buying slowed. Since then prices have become somewhat firmer and have remained generally stable through early October. Palm oil during September was quoted at 17,000 Belgian francs per metric ton, c.i.f. Antwerp ($308 per short ton) and palm kernels at 9,300 francs ($169).

It is not expected that the decline from the high prices attained in the early part of 1951 will adversely affect production. The area planted in oil palms continues to increase and it is believed that exports will remain at a high level. Commercial sources expect that 1951 output of palm oil will be at least equal to that of 1950 and probably higher. Governmental sources estimate palm kernel production at about 125,000 tons, although this figure probably also will be exceeded.

GREECE'S 1951 OILSEED PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

Greece's 1951 oilseed production, excluding olives, is tentatively estimated at 83,450 short tons, an increase of about 10 percent from last year's output of 76,280 tons, according to C. Souliotis, American Embassy, Athens.

Commercial cottonseed production, accounting for 70 percent of the total oilseed output, is reported at a record 59,000 tons (total output calculated from lint production may approach 64,000 tons). Based on utilization records of preceding years, approximately 6,100 tons of seed will be reserved for next season's seeding; 3,300 tons for cattle feeding, and 49,600 tons available for crushing.

Sesame seed output is estimated at 12,120 tons against 11,575 tons in 1950. Only about 2,150 tons will be crushed for oil and the balance used in bread and pastries. Small quantities of flaxseed (2,200 tons), sunflower seed (4,630), peanuts (2,750), and tobacco seed (2,750) also were produced during 1951.

The indicated oil supply from the above crops is placed at 9,050 tons compared with 7,330 tons in 1950.

ITALY EXPECTS LARGE OLIVE OIL OUTPUT

Producers and exporters in Puglia and Calabria estimate the 1951-52 production of Italian olive oil at between 300,000 and 350,000 short tons of edible oil and between 20,000 and 30,000 tons of sulphured olive oil. Weather conditions during the growing season were favorable. The over-all quality of the current crop is reported to be good. In the Bari area and Tuscany it is reported excellent. Trade circles estimate last year's production of edible oil at 187,000 tons.

Informed dealers and traders all have different opinions and estimates regarding the probable exportable surplus. One producer has taken the view that the current crop will about cover domestic requirements, and that the imports of seed oil and oilseeds will be greatly reduced. A second producer states that many domestic users of oil have become accustomed to the use of seed oils, and the exportable surplus of edible olive oil will be sufficient to supply all foreign demand for Italian olive oil. In general it can be stated that producers and exporters are unable even to approximate the quantity of oil destined for exportation.

Exporters and dealers are unanimous in declaring that stocks on hand of the 1950-51 crop are negligible. It is estimated that not more than 5,500 - 6,600 tons remain in the hands of producers and exporters.

Current wholesale prices for olive oil on the Bari Exchange, ex-warehouse, follow:

Grade	Lire per quintal	Dollars per short ton
Extra-fine, maximum acidity 1-1.5 percent	42,500-43,000	617 - 624
Superfine, " " 1-1.5 percent	41,500-42,000	602 - 610
Good Quality " " 2-3 percent	40,000-40,500	581 - 588
Clear, maximum acidity 5 percent	36,000-36,500	523 - 530
Mixed oils, Type A	43,500-44,000	631 - 639
Mixed oils, Type B	41,500-42,000	602 - 610

The market at present is uncertain. Exporters believe there will be a decrease in current wholesale prices during the latter half of November. Trade circles state that producers' prices are too high in view of the large 1951 olive crop.

TUNISIA FORECASTS ABOVE AVERAGE OLIVE OIL OUTPUT

Tunisia's 1951-52 olive oil production is expected to exceed by a sizeable margin average production during the past 10 years, according to M. E. Jeneid, American Consulate General, Tunis. In early October preliminary forecasts for edible oil ranged from 42,000 to 50,000 short tons with some trade sources going as high as 55,000 tons. Olive foots oil is placed at around 5,000 tons. This volume would exceed the average production of the past decade but would be far below the record 1949-50 output of 115,700 tons. Some 44,000 tons were produced in 1950-51.

Sfax merchants estimate the carry-over on November 1, 1951, at 6,600 tons. With domestic consumption needs at not more than 33,000 tons for the period November 1, 1951 to October 31, 1952, and assuming that imports of seed oils remain small, Tunisia would have an exportable surplus of about 20,000 tons of edible olive oil. Merchants consider that about 50 percent of the 5,000-ton olive foots output will consist of the "prime green" grade. About 2,000 tons should be available for export.

Market opinion in Sfax is fearful that Tunisia may have difficulty marketing this season's surplus at favorable prices in view of the good oil yields expected in Spain, Italy, and Greece. While unrestricted trade is maintained, some Government measures have been taken to regulate the market and prevent, as far as reasonably possible, speculative buying in any volume. Among the measures taken, an official order dated September 1, 1951, empowers the semi-official Office de l'Huile d'Olive de Tunisie to use certain Government funds, earmarked for the assistance of the olive oil industry, as a guarantee for bank advances made to producers of oil and, if necessary, to make purchases on its own account within the limit of funds at its disposal. Until November 1, 1951, it may purchase olive oil from the 1950-51 crop. Prices to be offered for these purchases reportedly compare favorably with recent Sfax quotations made at the beginning of October.

The "Lampante" grade (3-5 percent acidity) was sold for delivery in November-December at 145 francs per kilogram ($376 per short ton) and spot transactions in "surfine" oil (1 percent acidity) were on the basis of 185 francs ($480) during early October.

An official decree dated September 6, 1951 makes it compulsory for all contracts covering the sale of olive oil for future delivery to be registered, without fee, at the Office de l'Huile. Moreover, the decree stipulates that contracts for a period exceeding 30 days from the end of the month of signature will not be valid.

NEW ZEALAND INCREASES FLAXSEED PLANTINGS

New Zealand increased the price of flaxseed from £40 to £50 per long ton ($2.80 to $3.50 per bushel) in order to expand acreage planted during the 1951-52 season, according to J. Clewlow, American Embassy, Wellington. In order to avoid a serious shortage of oil in the Dominion, the area sown reportedly should have been increased to 40,000 acres. An estimated 30,000 acres, however, have been planted.

Harvesting difficulties caused by adverse weather reduced production during 1950-51 to around 300,000 bushels from 20,000 acres sown.

TOBACCO

PHILIPPINE LEAF TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS HIGHER; IMPORTS LOWER

The 1951-52 leaf tobacco production in the Philippine Republic is forecast at about 9 percent above the preliminary estimate for 1950-51, according to Merrill W. Abbey, American Embassy, Manila. Exports of leaf tobacco during the first 6 months of 1951 were 82 percent above those of the corresponding 1950 period. Leaf imports decreased sharply during the January-June 1951 period as compared with the first half of 1950.

The country's 1951-52 leaf production is forecast at about 71.6 million pounds from 138,376 acres which is a new postwar record. This compares with last season's (1950-51) postwar record outturn of 65.8 million pounds from 125,576 acres and with the 1949-50 output of 58.2 million pounds from 113,592 acres. The yield per acre for 1951-52 is now placed at about 518 pounds compared with 524 pounds in 1950-51 and 512 pounds in 1949-50.

Exports of leaf tobacco during January-June 1951 totaled 5.1 million pounds compared with only 2.8 million pounds during the corresponding 1950 period. Spain, the most important export outlet, took 3.7 million pounds, or 67 percent of all exports. French Africa, the second most important outlet, took 592,376 pounds; French East Indies, ranked third, taking 418,929 pounds; Belgium, fifth, taking 252,857 pounds. Other countries taking smaller quantities of Philippine leaf included the United States and its territories and the Netherlands.

Imports of leaf during January-June 1951 totaled only 4.7 million pounds as compared with about 19.0 million during January-June 1950. Over 99 percent of the total for the first 6 months of 1951 was supplied by the United States and its Territories. In addition to leaf tobacco, the Philippine Republic imported 350.6 million cigarettes, 1,000 cigars and 20.7 million pounds of smoking tobacco during the first 6 months of 1951.

SOUTHERN RHODESIAN FLUE-CURED TOBACCO SALES AND PRICES LOWER

Southern Rhodesian tobacco sales during the 1951 auction season were 14 percent less than in 1950, according to Randolph Roberts, Consul, American Consulate General, Salisbury. Average price per pound during the 1951 season was 9 percent below prices received in 1950.

The country's flue-cured tobacco sales totaled 89.4 million pounds compared with 104.2 million pounds during the 1950 sales. The 1951 average price per pound was only 40.77 U. S. cents compared with the 1950 average price per pound of 44.39 cents. However, top grade tobacco brought much higher prices during 1951 than in 1950 and had it not been that the crop was damaged by drought it is believed that total income received from tobacco sales would have been higher.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

ARGENTINE JULY-SEPTEMBER GRAIN EXPORTS 27 PERCENT SMALLER THAN IN SAME PERIOD OF 1950

Argentina's grain exports during the 3 months July-September of 1951, which constitute the first quarter of the 1951-52 grain marketing season in the United States, amounted to only 712,000 long tons compared with 982,000 tons during the same months last year, an overall reduction of more than 27 percent. Wheat exports show a reduction of 29 percent, rye of 84 percent, and oats of 72 percent. On the other hand, corn and barley exports, especially the latter, show an increase from the low levels of the corresponding quarter a year ago.

The percentage share of the individual grains in the total exports for the quarter under review with comparisons for the same quarter last year shown in parenthesis, was approximately as follows: wheat 68 (72) percent; corn 15 (11) percent; barley 8 (1) percent; rye 5 (3) percent; and oats 4 (13) percent.

ARGENTINE GRAIN EXPORTS DURING SEPTEMBER 1951 AND JULY-SEPTEMBER 1951 WITH COMPARISONS

Destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	All Grains
September 1951	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
Brazil	56,496	-	-	295	-	56,791
Chile	2,903	-	-	-	-	2,903
Paraguay	2,985	-	-	-	-	2,985
Peru	9,828	-	-	-	-	9,828
Belgium	-	-	2,862	-	7,000	9,862
France	16,274	-	37,465	-	-	53,739
Germany	-	98	1,319	945	21,188	23,550
Italy	4,942	-	-	-	-	4,942
Netherlands	-	-	-	492	2,594	3,086
Sweden	-	-	82	4,921	-	5,003
Switzerland	-	-	8,436	2,953	4,527	15,916
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	-
French Africa	11,761	-	-	-	-	11,761
India	14,716	-	-	-	-	14,716
Total	119,905	98	50,164	9,606	35,309	215,082
September 1950	220,068	9,202	19,031	48,903	-	297,204
July-September 1951						
Brazil	195,915	-	-	979	-	196,894
Chile	8,732	-	-	-	-	8,732
Paraguay	15,943	-	-	-	-	15,943
Peru	30,467	-	-	-	-	30,467
Belgium	3,443	3,924	7,956	4,745	16,660	36,728
France	16,274	-	80,723	-	-	96,997
Germany	17,750	98	5,531	11,673	33,136	68,188
Italy	47,595	-	-	-	-	47,595
Netherlands	-	-	6,596	492	6,971	14,059
Sweden	-	-	82	8,036	-	8,118
Switzerland	-	-	8,437	2,952	4,527	15,916
United Kingdom	1,856	-	1,506	8,036	-	11,398
Egypt	5,240	-	-	-	-	5,240
French Africa	18,651	-	984	-	-	19,635
India	136,046	-	-	-	-	136,046
Total	497,912	4,022	111,815	36,913	61,294	711,956
July-September 1950	706,227	25,723	107,830	132,679	9,650	982,109

Compiled from records of *El Cerealista*, Buenos Aires.

The bulk of the July-September 1951 wheat exports went to Brazil, India, Italy and Peru, these four countries taking 82 percent of the total. Virtually all of the rye, corn, oats and barley exports went to European countries. Argentina's marketing season runs from December through November for wheat, rye, oats and barley, and from April through May for corn.

ESTIMATED OCTOBER 1, 1951 EXPORTABLE SURPLUSES OF GRAIN IN ARGENTINA

Grain	Estimated exportable surplus at beginning of season		Exports from beginning of season to September 30, 1951	Approximate October 1, 1951 balance for export
	Date	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity 1/
		Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
Wheat . .	12-1-50	2,500,000	2,306,000	190,000
Rye . . .	12-1-50	250,000	174,600	75,000
Corn . .	4-1-51	550,000	129,000	420,000
Oats . .	12-1-50	150,000	85,900	65,000
Barley .	12-1-50	250,000	72,200	180,000

1/ Rounded to avoid appearance of absolute accuracy.

MEXICO EXPECTS RECORD CORN CROP

A record corn crop is forecast for Mexico in 1951. The production is estimated at 126 million bushels, according to the latest report from the American Embassy, Mexico, D. F. This would be about 30 percent above the small 1950 outturn. The increase is attributed to both increased acreage and considerably above-average yields. Yields for the current season are estimated at 12 bushels per acre, compared with 10 bushels a year ago and the 1935-39 average of 9 bushels per acre.

Exceptionally favorable growing conditions in most areas account for the indicated high yields. Rainfall on the central plateau was normal or above normal during most of the growing period. Conditions in most other corn producing regions were also favorable, though some hurricane damage was reported on the Yucatan peninsula and the Tampico Gulf coast, the latter part of August. Some increase in planting of improved hybrid and open pollinated varieties of seed corn developed by the Office of Special Studies of the Ministry of Agriculture and distributed by the National Corn Commission has also been an important factor in increased yields.

Acreage is estimated to be about 5 percent above the large plantings of 9.9 million acres for the past 2 years and about 30 percent larger than the 1935-39 average. The larger corn acreage reflects official encouragement of increased corn plantings. A wide-spread publicity campaign by the Ministry of Agriculture and various agricultural credit institutions stressed the necessity for increased corn acreage. This was implemented by credits being made available to corn planters and in some cases farmers were required to plant corn rather than cotton or other non-food crops.

Utilization of corn in Mexico is largely for food, use for seed and feed being estimated at only 10-20 percent. Per capita consumption during the past 2 seasons has been estimated to be between 3 and 4 bushels. Present crop prospects would provide slightly over 4 bushels per capita for the 1951-52 consumption year.

That level of consumption would be expected from the current crop, since virtually no stocks remain from last year's small harvest. A general shortage of corn throughout the country during the past 6 months has been reported.

As a result of the short supply situation, corn prices have been rising in recent months, and the average wholesale price in Mexico City was reported about 80 percent higher in July 1951 than a year earlier. Prices are expected to decline as soon as corn from this year's harvest becomes generally available.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

U.K. AGREES TO PAY HIGHER PRICES FOR AUSTRALIAN MEAT

The British Ministry of Food has issued the following press release announcing substantially higher meat prices for the season 1951-52, which continues the upward trend in the price of British imports:

"Following discussions in London between the Australian Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, and the British Minister of Food, agreement has been reached on prices to be paid for beef, mutton and lamb shipments in the 1951-52 season. The United Kingdom Government has agreed with the Australian Government to pay the following increase over prices ruling in the previous season:-

Lamb	17½ percent	First quality beef 3d. (3.5 U.S. cents) per pound
First quality mutton	15 percent	Second quality beef 2½d. (2.9 cents) per pound
Other mutton	10 percent	Other beef 1¼d. (1.5 cents) per pound

"The two Governments have agreed that of Australia's total exports of beef, mutton and lamb not more than 3 percent, or 3,000 tons (6.7 million pounds), whichever is the greater, may be diverted to other markets. Pork prices for 1951-52 are still under discussion and negotiations for the conclusion of a long-term meat agreement are continuing."

The reference to the long-term meat agreement refers to a proposed 15-year expansion program in Australia. The Australian Government wishes the United Kingdom to underwrite this program to some extent by guaranteeing a market for increased production and other safeguards. The reference to limiting exports to other markets may reflect the United Kingdom's apprehension regarding expanded sales to the United States and other countries.

It appears that in order to maintain the high meat rations of the last month, which amounted to as much as 2/ - to 2/2 (28.0-30.3 cents) weekly, some supplies of frozen imported meat were used. This action has been criticized on the basis that it would have been more prudent to stock frozen meat and to have a lower current ration which was entirely dependent on home-killed supplies with frozen supplies being stored for use at the end of the winter when home-killed supplies were low. The Ministry of Food of course has a problem in distributing home-killed supplies throughout the country to meet the ration and often must use imported supplies in some localities even when there may be a large amount of home-killed meat generally available but short in these localities. As of October 7 the weekly meat ration was decreased to 1s.10d. (25.7 cents).

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

1950-51 PAKISTANI COTTON EXPORTS SHOW INCREASE

Exports of Pakistani cotton during 1950-51 exceeded those of the preceding season by about 20 percent, primarily due to the relatively short world supply of cotton and consequent export restrictions in certain other countries, according to Henry W. Spielman, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Karachi.

Almost 1,038,000 bales (500 pounds gross) were shipped from Pakistan during 1950-51, compared to 891,000 bales in 1949-50. About 281,000 bales were exported to Japan, during 1950-51, while 119,000 and 109,000 bales were shipped to Hong Kong and China, respectively, during the same period. An additional 57,000 bales are reported to have been shipped to China in August and September, the last of the 1950-51 crop cotton destined for that country. During May 1951, about 163 bales of cotton were shipped from Karachi to Bombay, the first significant shipment of cotton to India since the devaluation of Indian currency in September 1949. Some 650 more bales left Karachi for Bombay during June.

Prices of Pakistan cotton reached a peak in the latter part of February 1951, with saw-ginned 289F Sind variety of fine quality, the type most comparable to American Middling 15/16 inch, rising to the equivalent of 60.68 U.S. cents a pound on the Karachi market, to which an export tax equivalent to 23.09 cents was added on all cotton shipped out of the country. Since that time there has been a generally downward trend with periods of relative stability intervening in May and August. Chinese purchases of cotton on the Karachi market, about the time prices were beginning to decline and throughout the spring and summer months, were an important factor in retarding a rapid fall in cotton prices. Prospects of a larger world cotton supply in 1951-52, however, pushed prices at Karachi to a low of 27.50 cents a pound (plus export tax of 13.85 cents) for 289F Sind on September 26, from which there was some recovery in October to 33 cents on October 24.

On September 11, 1951, the export tax on cotton, which had remained at 23.09 cents a pound since November 25, 1950, was lowered to 13.85 cents for American-type cotton (Punjab and Sind varieties) and 7.70 cents for the shorter staple Desi variety. In addition, the Government permitted forward sales of new-crop 1951-52 cotton for the first time on September 11. Only small quantities of new-crop cotton were sold, however, in the first few weeks following these announcements. Apparently most foreign purchasers were awaiting more stabilized prices before entering the Pakistan market.

The 1951-52 production of cotton in Pakistan is currently estimated at more than 1,275,000 bales, although it is still too early in the picking season, (beginning in September), for an accurate forecast. This would be about a 4-percent increase above the most recent estimate of the 1950-51 crop of 1,227,000 bales, and considerably above the 1 million bales produced in 1949-50.

Consumption of cotton in Pakistani mills and by the home-spinning industry in 1950-51 amounted to almost 145,000 bales, a sizable percentage increase above consumption in the previous season which amounted to about 120,000 bales. Exports were increased from 891,000 bales in 1949-50 to 1,038,000 in 1950-51 and stocks rose to 170,000 bales from 133,000 a year ago.

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound	
					Spot quotation	Export and intermediate taxes
Alexandria		Kantar				
Ashmouni, Good	11-1	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	97.25	56.37	2.96
Ashmouni, FGF	"	"	"	90.25	52.31	2.96
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	156.25	90.57	2.96
Karnak, FGF	"	"	"	138.25	80.14	2.96
Bombay		Candy				
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 820.00	21.83	21.30
Broach Vijay, Fine	"	"	"	1/ 925.00	24.62	21.30
Karachi		Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine	10-30	82.28 lbs.	"	95.00	34.83	13.85
289F Sind, SG, Fine	"	"	"	94.00	34.46	13.85
289F Punjab, SG, Fine	"	"	"	103.00	37.76	13.85
Buenos Aires		Metric ton				
Type B	11-1	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	8200.00	74.39	6.94
Lima		Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2	10-30	101.4 lbs.	Sol	520.00	33.40	11.28
Tanguis, Type 5	"	"	"	2/ 495.00	31.80	9.64
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	2/ 700.00	44.97	21.78
Recife		Arroba				
Mata, Type 4	10-31	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	430.00	70.74	2.4% ad valorem
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	(not quoted)		
Sertao, Type 4	"	"	"	550.00	90.49	" "
Sao Paulo						
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	369.00	60.71	3.0% ad valorem
Torreon		Sp. quintal				
Middling, 15/16"		101.4 lbs.	Peso	3/		
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av.Mid. 15/16"	11-1	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	38.22	-----

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Ceiling price.
2/ Nominal.
3/ Price omitted from last week's table: Torreon, October 25, 1951, in pesos per Spanish quintal with U.S. cents per pound in parentheses, Middling, 15/16" 285.00 (32.49); taxes 6.08 U.S. cents.